

Evers' discharge came in a peculiar way. Secretary Thomas of the Cubs yesterday received a telegram from Murphy, who is in New York at the National League meeting, saying that O'Day would be manager the coming season. That was the first intimation to the public that Murphy was displeased with Evers.

Immediately upon receipt of this telegram Thomas opened his desk and produced a bunch of the famous Murphy interviews for distribution to the newspapermen. Now notice the discrepancies.

Murphy left Chicago for New York last week. Therefore he must have dictated the conversation with himself before leaving. Also notice that the interview is dated Feb. 11, when news of Evers' discharge came Feb. 10. The interview makes it appear that Evers' discharge had been food for the fans for some days.

Evidently there was a slip somewhere. Following is the interview. It was written by Murphy himself, the Cub president asking and answering his own questions. Though dated from New York, it came directly from the Cub offices on the tenth floor of the Corn Exchange building.

"New York, Feb. 11, 1914.—The announcement made today that Henry O'Day is to manage the Chicago Cubs came as a great surprise, but it was well received in baseball circles. O'Day is one of the most popular men identified with the national game, to which he has practically devoted his entire life. He was born on the West Side of Chicago within six blocks of the Cubs' metropolis.

"While we are sorry Evers will not be with us," said President Murphy of the Chicago club, "we feel mighty good over securing O'Day, the former battery partner of Connie Mack. I have known O'Day for many years and I do not know any man who knows more practical baseball. He is very popular and his admirers are going to give him a monster banquet

on the night of April 22 when the Cubs play their first home game of the 1914 season.

"Every man, woman and child of the great West Side of Chicago—and that means two-thirds of that wonderful city—knows O'Day by reputation. Gov. Tener placed Henry on the National League rules committee and thus recognized him in a proper way. O'Day is the author of the foul strike rule and many others in our code, and he will be a success as manager of the Cubs without a doubt. Incidentally I hope to see him in charge of the Cubs for many years to come.

"We are very happy over securing O'Day and you watch the condition our boys are in when they open the season at Cincinnati."

By firing Evers, Murphy has put a strong club in the hands of the Federal League, and the third circuit never looked stronger than it does today.

Murphy has been talking long and loudly about the inviolability of contracts, and threatening court suits if any of his players break their agreements with him and hop to the Federal League.

Right on the heels of these declarations of purity he comes out and smashes a contract with Evers; which, according to the latter, had four years to run. Evers says he has two contracts, one as manager and the other as player, both to run concurrent, and that the termination of one ends the other.

From the standpoint of popularity, Murphy has also aided the Feds. He placed himself in a bad light last year by firing Frank Chance. His gate receipts suffered, and the Cubs were unpopular, even at home.

Evers was highly regarded here as a player, though there was some dissatisfaction with his work as manager. However unpopular he may have been, however, the fans will now be with him to a man, and will retaliate on Murphy for breaking